
Transportation and Communications Committee
May 5, 2005

Action Minutes

THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE A SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE. AN AUDIOCASSETTE TAPE OF THE ACTUAL MEETING IS AVAILABLE FOR LISTENING IN SCAG'S OFFICE.

The Transportation and Communications Committee held its meeting at the Los Angeles Athletic Club in downtown Los Angeles. The meeting was called to order by the Honorable Lee Ann Garcia, Chair, City of Grand Terrace. There was a quorum.

Members Present

Adams, Steve	Riverside, WRCOG
Aldinger, Jim	City of Manhattan Beach
Baldwin, Harry	City of San Gabriel
Becerra, Glen	City of Simi Valley
Bone, Lou	City of Tustin
Dale, Lawrence	City of Barstow
Daniels, Gene	City of Paramount
Dixon, Richard	City of Lake Forrest
Dunlap, Judy	City of Inglewood
Flickinger, Bonnie	City of Moreno Valley
Garcia, Lee Ann	City of Grand Terrace
Gurule, Frank	City of Cudahy
Joffe, Enid	San Gabriel Valley COG
Lowe, Robin	City of Hemet/RCTC
Lowenthal, Bonnie	City of Long Beach
Mikels, Judy	Ventura County
Millhouse, Keith	City of Moorpark
Ovitt, Gary	San Bernardino County
Pettis, Greg	Cathedral City
Ridgeway, Tod	City of Newport Beach
Roberts, Ron	City of Temecula
Rutherford, Mark	City of Westlake Village
Smith, Greg	City of Los Angeles
Spence, David	City of Arroyo Verdugo
Stone, Jeff	Riverside County
Szerlip, Don	South Bay Cities COG
Talbot, Paul	City of Alhambra
Tyler, Sidney	City of Pasadena
Wapner, Alan	City of Ontario

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Members Not Present

Beauman, John	City of Brea
Brown, Art	City of Buena Park
Buckley, Tom	City of Lake Elsinore
Burke, Yvonne	City of Los Angeles
Cervantes, Jesus	Commerce, Gateway Cities COG
Correa, Lou	City of Orange County
DeLara, Juan	City of Coachella
De Young, Cathryn	City of Laguna Niguel
Fasana, John	City of Duarte
Gabelich, Rae	City of Long Beach
George, Gary	City of Redlands
Hall, Isadore	City of Compton
Hernandez, Robert	City of Anaheim
Herrera, Carol	SGVCOG
Herzog, Peter	OCOG
Marshall, Patsy	City of Buena Park
Miller, Paul	City of Simi Valley
Nuaimi, Mark	City of Fontana
O'Connor, Pam	City of Santa Monica
Smyth, Cameron	City of Santa Clarita
Sykes, Tom	City of Walnut
Uranga, Tonia Reyes	City of Long Beach

New Members

None

Voting Members, Not Elected Official

Casey, Rose	Caltrans
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1.0 CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLIGANCE

Chair, the Honorable Lee Ann Garcia, called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no public comments at this time

3.0 REVIEW and PRIORITIZE

4.0 CONSENT CALENDAR

4.1 Approval Item

4.1.1 Approve Minutes of April 7, 2005

4.1.2 Regional Transportation Improvement (RTIP) Expenditure Project Selection Procedure

4.1.3 2004 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) Amendment Approval Procedure

Greg Pettis, Cathedral City, requested that the minutes reflect that he was present at the April 7th Committee meeting.

Staff noted that the correction to item 4.1.2, Regional Transportation Improvement (RTIP) Expenditure Project Selection Procedure, clarification had been made to the language as a result of the interagency consultation with the Transportation Conformity Working Group request, and was mailed out to the committee as a separate attachment.

4.2 Receive and File

4.2.1 State and Federal Legislative Matrix

4.2.2 SCAG Future Events Calendar

4.2.3 State Budget Update

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MOTION was then made to approve the Consent Calendar items. Motion was SECONDED, and UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

5.0 ACTION ITEMS

5.1 State Transportation Legislation

Charlotte Pienkos, SCAG Staff, gave a presentation on a number of legislative proposals currently under consideration in the Legislature. Mrs. Pienkos report surveyed transportation proposals from Governor Schwarzenegger, Assembly Democrats, and Senate Democrats. In addition, two container fees bills for the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, and three bills featuring a general obligation bond measure, the organization of the San Diego County Transportation Agency board, and high occupancy vehicle lanes.

There were ten bills that were reviewed, the Committee kept the staff recommendation on seven of them. Three of the bills did not have any revisions.

On the Governor's 'Go California' package that contains four bills, of those four, SCAG has taken supporting positions on two of them involving design build and design sequencing legislation consistent with the 2005 State and Federal Legislative Program. There were two other bills, AB 850 and ACA 4X, which Ms. Pienkos updated the committee on. AB 850, currently in the Assembly Appropriations Committee and with no hearing scheduled as of yet primarily because the legislature is about to go into the appropriation and budget negotiations. The Governor's May revision will come out on May 13. AB 850, authorizes Cal Trans to enter into thirty five year franchise agreements with public and private entities to develop toll roads which include mixed flow lanes, lanes that may be dedicated for HOV use, and/or dedicated truck lanes. Tolls may be collected after the franchise period, so they would not be used to simply repay the construction of this project but could continue indefinitely. Tolls may not be collected on HOV lanes and no free-lanes are converted by AB 850 into Toll Lanes.

Ms. Pienkos went on to state that she suggest a support position on AB 850 as it is consistent with SCAG's policy and, is even consistent with the scope of the kind of project that we are proposing to do in the RTP.

Ms. Pienkos stated that the other 'Go California' bill, is ACA 4X, is a much more complicated constitutional amendment and one which is not specifically pertinent to SCAG in three of its four component parts. Staff is most concerned about the Governor's idea to repeal the ability of the Legislature and to himself to take Prop. 42 funds and convert them to the general funds. There is a problem with this constitutional amendment, in that it does not include an inflationary factor.

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Ms. Pienkos then recommended that SCAG support the provisions of ACA 4X, related to Proposition 42, if they are amended to do things like hasten the re-payment period to include an inflationary factor and to guarantee that there would be no further Prop. 42 suspension next year.

Ms. Pienkos then briefed the committee on the Assembly Democrats Proposal, 'Building Opportunity'. She stated that this package of bills had not yet been introduced. She encapsulated that it was a tax swap to improve funding for transportation. The first part would eliminate the .11 state sales tax on gasoline, the gas tax would be replaced by gradually raising the state sales tax a quarter of a cent. A ten billion-dollar bond would be placed on the November 2006 ballot and gradually paid for by raising the excise tax on motor vehicle fuel. Bond proceeds would be used to repay borrowed Prop. 42 funds and to also pay for Bay Bridge cost overruns.

The Committee then raised questions and made comments on the following bills:

SB 760

- What is the expectation and role of AQMD?
- What is the constitutionality of this bill?
- How will the AQMD use the funds generated to reduce air pollution?
- This fee should be applied to ports statewide, not just LA/Long Beach
- Does the CTC have any restrictions on spending?

MOTION was made to follow the Staff recommendation to watch and provide comments on SB 760. MOTION was SECONDED and UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

AB 426 - Change from staff recommendation of oppose to 'Support for Riverside County on a limited basis'.

MOTION was made to approve this change to a support position based on Riverside only. MOTION was SECONDED and MOVED with ONE OPPOSITION, (Szerlip).

Chair Garcia, then inquired if there were any other bills specifically that the committee wished to discuss, otherwise she would ask for a motion to move the balance of the bills.

Assembly Democrats' Transportation Bill – It was noted that the text of the bill read dropping the .11 gas tax and add a half-cent sales tax. It also read adding back .03 a year back with no cap on it. If this is the case, in four years there would actually be an increase in gas tax and added a half-cent sales tax. There was opposition and concern with this.

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Councilmember Dixon, City of Lake Forest, then made a SUBSTITUTE MOTION on the Assembly Democrats' Transportation bill to watch and provide comments. For two reasons, 1) this is not a bill yet and, 2) some of the principles that are contained in the initial writing of the bill are principles that are in the current Regional Transportation Plan. MOTION was SECONDED and UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

Chair Garcia then inquired if there were any other bills that the Committee wished to discuss.

MOTION was made to move the balance of the bills for staff recommendation. MOTION was SECONDED and UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

6.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

6.1 Homeland Security Chapter of the Regional Comprehensive Plan: SCAG's Role and Responsibility

Sina Zarifi, SCAG Staff, gave brief presentation on the Regional Comprehensive Plan Task Force's recommendations regarding SCAG's role and responsibility in addressing the issues pertaining to homeland security. In addition he highlighted the Task Force's approved staff recommendations on proposed vision and mission statements, goals, policies and actions to be undertaken by SCAG.

The Task Force identified SCAG's role would be to provide a forum where plans can be discussed and coordinated with other regional planning efforts; and would work toward developing regional consensus and agreements, but not be responsible for operation and implementation of plans and programs. This role will be described and elaborated in the draft Regional Comprehensive Plan Homeland Security Chapter to be prepared by staff at the direction of the Task Force.

The committee suggested that action be suspended on this policy until it is decided what the role of an MPO is.

Mr. Ikhata, SCAG Staff, reminded the committee that that this is a requirement of the Federal Agencies, it is an emphasis area that we need to address. He agreed that it was not clear what role SCAG would play. He then stated that Staff would go back to the RCP Task Force and formulate a policy that might be acceptable and bring it back to the committee.

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6.2 Regional Perspective on Land Use and Transportation

Councilmember Bill Fulton, City of Ventura, and Senior Scholar for the USC School of Planning and Policy Development, and the President of Solimar Research Group, gave a presentation on Mobility and Growth in Southern California.

Some of Mr. Fulton's presentation highlighted the following points:

- The Region's land is more expensive and more scarce
- Traffic is more congested and seems only to get worse, which at the city level will be very hard to turn around in cars and freeways
- The population is growing but, more important, it is changing
- The evolution of transportation policy thinking – capacity, mobility, access

Mr. Fulton pointed out that transportation is dictated by land use pattern. He stated that regional mobility is not really about transportation, but about proximity and access. Mr. Fulton then went on to imply that the region must rethink its regional assets around this model and look at it in a new way.

7.0 MAGLEV TASK FORCE REPORT

Councilmember Bone, City of Tustin, reported that at the April 20th meeting the Maglev Task Force approved the final MOU for signatures by the City of Ontario, City of Los Angeles, and SANBAG. Furthermore, the City of Ontario City Council and SANBAG Transportation Committee have approved the final MOU. Once the final approval is received from the City of Los Angeles, the MOU will be ready for circulation and signatures. The MOU is a funding agreement that involves both the alternative analysis and the preliminary engineering for the IOS. With exception to the MOU, both these studies will be ready to commence work.

It was noted that the Maglev Task Force has changed their meeting dates and time to accommodate the City of Los Angeles Transportation Committee and has been moved to the third Wednesday of every month at 11:00 a.m.

8.0 CHAIR REPORT

Chair Garcia encouraged all committee members to attend the upcoming SCAG Retreat, June 1-2, at the Pierpont Inn in Ventura.

9.0 STAFF REPORT

Rich Macias, SCAG Staff, brought to the attention of the committee that that there was a Consent Calendar item on today's Regional Council agenda regarding the approval of the

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RTP Update Schedule. He reminded the committee that Staff had brought this item to them a couple of months ago and the committee approved the item in full.

10.0 GOODS MOVEMENT TASK FORCE REPORT

None at this time.

11.0 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

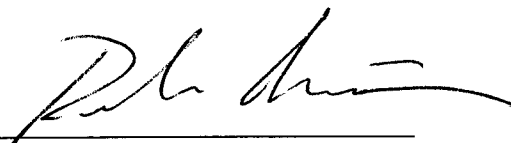
None at this time.

12.0 ANNOUNCEMENTS

None at this time.

13.0 ADJOURNMENT

The Honorable Lee Ann Garcia, Chair, adjourned the meeting at 11:23 a.m.
The next committee meeting will be held on
July 7, 2005, 10:30 a.m., at the SCAG office.



Rich Macias, Manager
Transportation Planning/Programming Division